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Call for papers

Strategies for sustainable solutions: an interdisciplinary and collaborative research agenda

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A profound industrial and societal transformation is a precondition for a sustainable, low-fossil carbon, resilient, equitable and prosperous future. This demands creative, robust and audacious strategies in governance, management and education, which address governmental policies, business models, visionary plans and concrete actions. We need to work at the nexus of industry, government, academia, NGOs and across societies in interdisciplinary, collaborative and empowering ways. We need to continue to synthesise insights from economic theory and practice, natural sciences, engineering, geography and political science, as well as organisational, legal and behavioural studies. We need to integrate knowledge and experiences from across disciplines and sectors to change from *business-as-usual* to sustainable solutions. In academia, we need to work in collaboration with partners outside research, including from industry, government, and NGOs. We need to actively engage in collaborative research projects and platforms, case studies and action research, living labs and interactive exchanges. We need to go beyond *research-as-usual*.

This Call for Papers (CfPs) for a Special Volume (SV) of the Journal of Cleaner Production (JCLP) addresses possibilities and drivers for change by focussing on strategies for sustainable solutions with the underlying purpose of defining an interdisciplinary and collaborative research agenda for the next ten years. It is paramount that contributions to this SV build on articles and knowledge about sustainable solutions from the JCLP and relevant sources, and engage authors from outside academia. This SV aims to contribute to “**Future Earth**” – an international research initiative designed to develop knowledge for responding effectively and robustly to the risks and opportunities of global environmental change and for supporting transformations towards global sustainability over the coming ten years.¹ We also draw attention to “**Transformative**

Cornerstones of Social Science Research for Global Change”.²

This is a report developed by the International Social Science Council that defines key priorities for research on sustainable solutions.

Strategies are not merely formal plans or abstract visions. We interpret strategies as frameworks to guide concrete actions and real processes leading to transformative changes at niche, local, national and global scales. This CfPs concentrates on the need to envision and implement strategies for sustainable solutions through a diversity of activities in governance, management and education. Specifically, the guest editors highlight the following themes: 1) Strategies for sustainable consumption and lifestyles – making equitable and sustainable living a reality; 2) Strategies for sustainable cities and buildings – catalysing sustainable urban and regional transitions; and 3) Strategies for low-fossil carbon infrastructure and systems – supporting sustainable transformation of energy and transport systems. We strongly encourage authors to develop papers on innovative cross-cutting topics linking these highlighted areas, and including learning and education, which are crucial for the implementation of visionary strategies for sustainable solutions.

Consumption and lifestyles: Current consumption and production patterns in industrialised countries are not sustainable and cannot be extended throughout the world without exceeding most planetary boundaries. In order to achieve equitable standards of living for all, changes in consumption and production patterns are necessary. There remains considerable attention on only production, rather than in the interrelationships between consumption and production. This SV addresses problems associated with consumption patterns and it is designed to help advance knowledge in the design, application and evaluation of policy and business strategies and concrete actions, including:

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¹ See: <http://www.futureearth.info>.

² See: <http://www.worldsocialscience.org>.

- Strategies for developing and implementing sustainable markets for companies in supply chains and retail facilities;
- Strategies for developing and implementing sustainable products and services; and
- Strategies for developing and implementing waste prevention, remanufacturing, reuse and recycling.

Cities and buildings: Cities are playing key roles in the transitions towards sustainability. Throughout the world, cities are rapidly expanding and experiencing radical social and economic transformations. This results in complex challenges, but also provides global and local opportunities. Cities can become centers for creativity on sustainability that provide opportunities for technological and social innovations. This SV addresses problems associated with city development and it is designed to advance knowledge in the design, application and evaluation of policy and business strategies and concrete actions, including:

- Strategies and governance models for sustainable urban areas;
- Strategies for more energy and materially efficient buildings; and
- Strategies for sustainable urban infrastructure focussing on energy, water, waste and ICT.

Infrastructure and systems: Scientific evidence on climate change and the environmental impacts of energy production and consumption, and transport systems, are emerging on an almost daily basis. Low-fossil carbon energy infrastructures and sustainable transportation are critical to human development. The expansion of renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements coupled with ICT will play many roles in leading and supporting the transitions to low-fossil carbon infrastructures. This SV is designed to solicit papers that address problems associated with energy and transportation infrastructure and to advance knowledge in the design, application and evaluation of policy and business strategies and concrete actions to solve these problems, including:

- Strategies for widespread implementation of renewable energy and improved energy efficiency;
- Strategies for sustainable transportation; and
- Strategies that integrate ICT, energy and transportation to foster the transitions to sustainable societies.

Tentative schedule

- Authors are asked to submit extended abstracts (400–500 words) via email to the guest editors (Kes McCormick at kes.mccormick@iiiee.lu.se) by October 31, 2014.
- Selected authors will be notified by November 15, 2014 to develop complete papers.
- Authors will be expected to follow the JCLP Instructions for Authors and to submit their papers to Elsevier via the EES system by February 1, 2015.
- Comments by reviewers and by the guest editors of this SV will be provided to the authors by March 15, 2015.

- Submission of final versions of all revised papers by June 1, 2015.
- Authors will be informed of decisions and of the need to make further revisions by July 1, 2015.
- Deadline for submission of revisions of all papers in the corrected proof phase by August 1, 2015.
- Publication of the SV by September 1, 2015.

Contributions

Full papers are invited for potential publication in this SV of the JCLP. Submissions should be between 6000 and 8500 words for research papers with empirical studies and between 4000 and 5000 words for case studies. We also encourage critical viewpoints, policy briefs and educational initiatives of 3000–4000 words. We welcome contributions from authors outside academia. We encourage short papers entitled professional insights of 1000–2000 words. Comprehensive integrative reviews of 9000–13,000 words are needed for this SV. All papers should be developed based upon the editorial and formatting guidelines provided in the JCLP Instructions for Authors.³ Upon receipt of the completed manuscripts, three to four independent reviewers will be selected to provide peer reviews. The revised and accepted manuscripts will be published in this SV of the JCLP.

Guest editors

Authors may contact the guest editors of the SV for further information.

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Editor-in-chief

Authors may also confer with the Editor-in-Chief of the JCLP. Professor Dr. Donald Huisingh, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, USA donaldhuisingh@comcast.net

³ See: http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/30440/authorinstructions.